

THE STATUS OF *TRICORYNUS MEIERI* (REITTER)

(ANOBIIDAE: COLEOPTERA)

This is in reference to the note in "Die Käfer Mitteleuropas," Band 8, 1969, by Freude, Harde, and Lohse concerning possible synonymy of *Tricorynus meieri*. On page 56 of the Anobiidae section (by G. A. Lohse) beneath the write-up of *T. meieri* the statement is made "Vermutlich noch einmal 1965 als *T. texanus* White beschreiben." I have translated the original description of *T. meieri* (Reitter, 1897, Wien. Ent. Zeit. 16(7):205) and have found the following. The part of the description after the discussion of the small elytral punctures refers to the scattered larger punctures at the side of the elytra nearly forming rows ("dazwischen mit größeren, aber sehr flachen, wenig deutlichen Punkten, welche gegen die Seiten zu fast in Reihen geordnet sind"). *T. texanus* does not fit this description, the larger punctures of the elytra do not form rows. I regard it as very likely that *T. meieri* is a synonym (junior) of *T. herbarius* (Gorham), the Mexican book beetle. In *T. herbarius* the large elytral punctures at the side are in rather distinct rows, and these rows are in 3 more or less distinct, shallow impressions basally; the lower 2 of these impressions are continuous with the 2 narrow, more sharply impressed lateral grooves at the elytral apex. Immediately after the above quote in the original description of *T. meieri* appears "die Seiten mit drei nach vorn verkürzten Streifen, ebensolche kurze Streifrudimente sind auch auf der Spitze der Decken vorhanden, welche sich mit den seitlichen verbinden."

The length given for *T. meieri* in its original description (3 to 3.25 mm.) agrees well with the length for *T. herbarius* (2.7 to 3.5 mm.). In addition, *T. herbarius* is a serious pest in tropical regions of a wide variety of stored organic materials, including wood (White, 1963, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer. 56(3):284). In the original description of *T. meieri* it was mentioned that specimens were taken from wood, and that there was stored wood in the vicinity of the collection site; it was concluded that the species could have been imported. *Tricorynus texanus* is not known from wood; it has been recorded only from beans and seeds.—RICHARD E. WHITE, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agr. Res. Serv., U.S. Department of Agriculture, c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20560.